

DNR Program

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Indiana Nature Poetry Chapbook Just Released ***Poetry Reading at Mounds State Park April 18***

In June 2008, poet Stacy Smith and Mounds State Park Interpretive Naturalist Angie Manuel teamed together to organize a nature poetry contest for Hoosiers. From the 207 judged entries, 62 poems by 39 poets were chosen to be included in the newly released chapbook, *Poetic Nature in the Hoosierland: A Collection of Environmental Poems by Indiana Authors*. Royalties from the publication will benefit Mounds State Park of Anderson.

In celebration of the chapbook's release, Mounds State Park is hosting a poetry party and reading on Saturday, April 18th at 2:00pm to coincide with the park's Earth Day 2009 events. The public, the poets, and all nature lovers are invited to the nature center amphitheater for fun, refreshments, and door prize drawings.

Smith edited the chapbook, which includes a few of her own poems. This is her fourth published nature poetry book and the third in which the royalties go towards helping wildlife and the natural world. Smith's work has also appeared in *Birds and Blooms* magazine, *Ideals* magazine, *Asian Geographic* magazine, *The Heron's Nest* haiku journal, and various publications.

Manuel wrote the foreword of the chapbook. She has had several articles published in the Indiana DNR magazine *Outdoor Indiana*. And, as the Interpretive Naturalist, Manuel has conducted nature journaling and creative writing programs at Mounds State Park.

Poetic Nature in the Hoosierland was published by Shadow Poetry and is available thru their online bookstore at www.shadowpoetry.com. The chapbook can also be purchased in the Mounds State Park gift shop, or can be ordered through your local bookstore by giving the ISBN number (978-09822996-3-0).

Winning poems were announced last December, and the top entries won cash prizes and complimentary copies of the chapbook. First and second place poems can be read on the Shadow Poetry website under the bookstore chapbooks link.

First Place, Tony Brewer, of Bloomington, "Trees are poems to a typewriter in the woods"
Second Place, Mary A. Couch, of Noblesville, "The Great Mound"
Third place, Tere Payne, of Greenfield, "Ambling"